

Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel Claims 1 through 18 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please add Claims 19 through 46 to read, as follows.

Claims 1 through 18. **(Canceled)**

--19. **(New)** An image forming apparatus comprising:

an image carrier for holding a toner image;

a transfer member for transferring the toner image from the image carrier at a transfer position;

voltage application means for applying a voltage to a transfer member; and

control means for controlling an output of the voltage application means,

wherein the control means controls the voltage application means in each of a first mode and a second mode so as to switch the output of the voltage application means from a first voltage value to a second voltage value,

wherein the second voltage value is a voltage for transferring the toner image formed on the image carrier,

wherein a difference in the first mode between the first voltage value and the second voltage value is larger than a difference in the second mode between the first voltage value and the second voltage value, and

wherein a time period of the first mode from a timing of a switching operation controlled by the control means to a timing that a position of the image carrier

corresponding to a tip position of a printing member has reached the transfer position is longer than a time period of the second mode from the timing of the switching operation controlled by the control means to a timing that a position of the image carrier corresponding to the tip position of the printing member has reached the transfer position.

20. (New) The image forming apparatus of claim 19,

wherein there is no difference in the time period of the second mode from the timing of the switching operation controlled by the control means to the timing that the position of the image carrier corresponding to the tip position of the printing member has reached the transfer position.

21. (New) The image forming apparatus of claim 19,

wherein the control means controls the voltage application means so as to apply a bias voltage to the transfer member at the transfer position during a non-transferring time period to detect a resistance value of the transfer position.

22. (New) The image forming apparatus of claim 21,

wherein the control means controls the voltage application means so as to set the second voltage according to a detected resistance value.

23. (New) The image forming apparatus of claim 21,
wherein an operating environment in a main body of the apparatus is detected based
a detected resistance value at the transfer position.

24. (New) The image forming apparatus of claim 23,
wherein the mode is selected according to a detected operating environment.

25. (New) The image forming apparatus of claim 21,
wherein the mode is selected and the second voltage is set according to a detected
resistance value.

26. (New) The image forming apparatus in any one of claims 19 through 23,
wherein the mode is selected according to a type of the printing member.

27. (New) An image forming apparatus comprising:
an image carrier for holding a toner image;
a transfer member for transferring the toner image from the image carrier onto a
printing member;
voltage application means for applying a voltage to the transfer member; and
control means for controlling an output outputted from the voltage application
means,

wherein the control means controls the voltage application means in each of a first mode and a second mode so as to switch an output of the voltage application means from a first voltage value to a second voltage value,

wherein the second voltage value is a voltage for transferring the toner image formed on the image carrier,

wherein the first mode is a mode such that the control means controls the voltage application means so as to switch the output before a printing member is transported to a transfer position between the image carrier and the transfer member, and

wherein the second mode is a mode such that the control means controls the voltage application means so as to switch the output of the voltage application means when the printing member is transported to the transfer position between the image carrier and the transfer member.

28. (New) The image forming apparatus of claim 27,

wherein the mode is selected according to a type of the printing member.

29. (New) The image forming apparatus of claim 28,

wherein the first mode is selected when the printing member is a thick paper, and the second mode is selected when the printing member is a plain paper.

30. **(New)** The image forming apparatus of claim 27,

wherein the toner image is transferred onto both sides of the printing member, and a mode at a first side of the printing member is different from a mode at a second side of the printing member when forming an image.

31. **(New)** The image forming apparatus of claim 27,

wherein the control means controls the voltage application means so as to apply a bias voltage to the transfer member at the transfer position during a non-transferring time period to detect a resistance value of the transfer position.

32. **(New)** The image forming apparatus of claim 31,

wherein the control means controls the voltage application means so as to set the second voltage according to a detected resistance value.

33. **(New)** The image forming apparatus of claim 31,

wherein an operating environment in a main body of the apparatus is detected based on a detected resistance value.

34. **(New)** The image forming apparatus of claim 33,

wherein the mode is selected according to a detected operating environment in the main body of the apparatus.

35. (New) The image forming apparatus of claim 31,
wherein the mode is selected and the second voltage is set according to a detected resistance value.

36. (New) An image forming apparatus comprising:
an image carrier for holding a toner image;
a transfer member for transferring the toner image from the image carrier;
voltage application means for applying a voltage to a transfer member; and
control means for controlling an output of the voltage application means,
wherein the control means controls the voltage application means in each of a first mode and a second mode so as to switch the output of the voltage application means from a first voltage value to a second voltage value,
wherein the second voltage value is a voltage for transferring the toner image formed on the image carrier,
wherein a difference in the first mode between the first voltage value and the second voltage value is larger than a difference in the second mode between the first voltage value and the second voltage value, and
wherein a switching operation of the first mode controlled by the control means occurs earlier in an image forming operation than a switching operation of the second mode enabled by the control means.

37. (New) The image forming apparatus of claim 36,
wherein the toner image is transferred from the image carrier at a transfer position located between the image carrier and the transfer member, and
wherein a time period of the first mode from a timing that a predetermined position of the image carrier has been reached to the transfer position to a timing of a switching operation controlled by the control means is shorter than a time period of the second mode from a timing that the predetermined position of the image carrier has been reached the transfer position to the timing of the switching operation controlled by the control means.

38. (New) The image forming apparatus of claim 36,
wherein the timing of the switching operation controlled by the control means in the second mode occurs earlier in an image forming operation than a timing that a position of the image carrier corresponding to a tip position of the printing member has reached the transfer position, and the timing of the switching operation controlled by the control means in the first mode occurs later in the image forming operation than timing of the switching operation controlled by the control means in the second mode.

39. (New) The image forming apparatus in any one of claims 36 through 38,
wherein the control means controls the voltage application means so as to apply a bias voltage to the transfer member at the transfer position during a non-transferring time to detect a resistance value at the transfer position.

40. (New) The image forming apparatus of claim 39,
wherein the control means controls the voltage application means so as to set the
second voltage according to a detected resistance value.

41. (New) The image forming apparatus of claim 39,
wherein an operating environment in a main body of the apparatus is detected based
on a detected resistance value.

42. (New) The image forming apparatus of claim 41,
wherein the mode is selected according to the detected operating environment.

43. (New) The image forming apparatus of claim 39,
wherein the mode is selected and the second voltage is set according to a detected
resistance value.

44. (New) The image forming apparatus in any one of claims 36 through 38,
wherein the mode is selected according to a type of the printing member.

45. (New) The image forming apparatus in any one of claims 19, 27, and 36,
wherein the first value voltage in the first mode is different from the first voltage
value in the second mode.

46. (New) The image forming apparatus in any one of claims 19, 27, and 36,
wherein the second voltage value in the first mode is different from the second
voltage value in the second mode.--